

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT:** Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)  
Greenbelt Campus Master Plan

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**ACTION:** Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et. seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 –1508), and NASA NEPA regulations (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a FONSI with respect to the proposed implementation of the GSFC Greenbelt Campus Master Plan. The Greenbelt Campus Master Plan would be implemented over a 20-year period with a planning horizon of 2037. Numerous buildings would be demolished, constructed, and renovated/sustained along with general infrastructure maintenance and improvement activities that would be implemented throughout the installation. NASA would explore different options for some excess buildings and land areas to include divesting land, divesting buildings, and potential future partnerships with non-NASA entities for use of NASA owned land.

**ADDRESS:** The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) that supports and serves as the basis for this FONSI may be viewed on the internet at: <https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250/node/122>.

A limited number of copies of the EA may be obtained by contacting the NASA representative at the email address or telephone number indicated below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** NASA has reviewed the EA and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

NASA solicited public and agency review and comment on the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action through a 30-day comment period on the Draft EA. A notice was published on March 4, 2021, in the Greenbelt News Review newspaper. An electronic version of the EA was posted online at: <https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250/node/122>. Comments received were considered in the preparation of the Final EA.

The GSFC Greenbelt Campus Master Plan EA was prepared as a programmatic document. Prior to implementation, each of the Master Plan projects would be reviewed via the GSFC Greenbelt Environmental and Safety Review Process to: 1) identify if the project was sufficiently analyzed in the Final EA or if additional environmental analysis and/or NEPA documentation (i.e. categorical exclusion, EA or Environmental Impact Statement) is needed and; 2) identify any additional environmental requirements, permits, mitigation, etc. that may be required for the project to include compliance with the Endangered Species Act Section 7 and the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106.

The EA addressed the potential environmental impacts of implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The Proposed Action would support existing and future NASA goals and objectives of the Greenbelt Campus with a focus on reducing real property assets and operating costs over a 20-year period.

Under the Proposed Action, numerous buildings would be demolished, constructed, and renovated/sustained along with general infrastructure maintenance and improvement activities that would be implemented throughout the installation. Full implementation of the Proposed Action at the GSFC Greenbelt Campus would remove via demolition approximately 647,000 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup> - building footprint) of excess and/or aging and energy inefficient buildings; add via construction approximately 375,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (building footprint) of new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified energy efficient buildings; divest approximately 100,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (building footprint) of excess buildings; avoid annual energy costs by approximately \$8.8 million and approximately \$10.1 million in operations and maintenance costs; and remove approximately \$54 million in deferred maintenance.

The analysis in the EA indicated environmental impacts would range from short to long-term with no significant impact to any resource category. Minor, short-term impacts to air quality would occur during construction activities; however, the projects would occur over a 20-year period and emissions are not anticipated to have significant impacts on regional air quality. Minor, short-term adverse impacts to vegetation and terrestrial wildlife during site preparation and construction activities; no long-term adverse impacts to wildlife would be anticipated. There would be a long-term impact with the removal of approximately 5.6 acres of forested area for construction of the new logistics and processing facility (Building J). To offset the removal of forested areas, GSFC would designate protected forest conservation area elsewhere on Center. No impacts to threatened and/or endangered species or critical habitat as none are known to occur at GSFC. The overall reduction in impervious surfaces throughout the Greenbelt Campus, and the LEED and low impact design of new and renovated infrastructure, would result in a minor, long-term beneficial impact due to a reduction in storm water runoff. Water conservation and minimization of wastewater pollutants would result in moderate, long-term beneficial impacts to water resources. For potential adverse visual effects to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible GSFC Historic District, GSFC would consult with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as each project begins its design phase to minimize adverse visual effects and consider the scale, materials, and overall design of the new buildings. There is the potential for minor, short-term disruption of utilities service connections during the construction phases. Replacement of aging facilities with

new LEED certified energy efficient buildings would have long-term energy and water savings resulting in long-term beneficial impacts to utilities and infrastructure at GSFC.

The No Action Alternative would not implement the GSFC Greenbelt Campus Master Plan. The Center would continue to operate the buildings and infrastructure currently in use on the Main Campus and in the areas off the Main Campus. Minor, long-term adverse impacts to air quality, water resources, and utilities and infrastructure would be anticipated from continued use of aging and energy inefficient infrastructure.

On the basis of the Final EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Dennis J. Andrucyk  
Center Director  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

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